

School District No. 38 (Richmond)
7811 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC V6Y 3E3

MINUTES OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, November 4, 2019 at 10:30 am
Board Room, 1st Floor, School District Office

Present: Sandra Nixon, Chairperson
Donna Sargent, Vice Chairperson
Heather Larson, Member
Scott Robinson, Superintendent
Tim McCracken, Vice President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Ian Hillman, CUPE Local 716
Wennie Walker, RASA
Liz Baverstock, President, Richmond Teachers' Association
Rebeca Avendano, Co-Chair, RMAPS
Catherine Cleary, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:34 am.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ADOPT AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

3. POLICY 704 & 704-R: *School Closure and/or Consolidation*

POLICY 704.1 & 704.1-R: *Disposal of School Board Land or Improvements*

Memorandum from the Superintendent
Stakeholder Review and Feedback

The Superintendent provided an overview of his report highlighting a summary of stakeholder input on Policies 704 & 704-R and 704.1 & 704.1-R received between September 12 and November 1, 2019. Attachments from Richmond Teachers' Association and CUPE Local 716 feedback were provided. RASA also provided input through discussion with senior staff.

It was noted by the Superintendent that based on all the feedback received, there is general support for the majority of changes being proposed for both Policy 704/704-R and Policy 704.1/704.1-R. Regarding Policy 704/704-R, Stakeholders expressed some questions regarding the length of the consultation process and requested that a specific reference to input provided by employees be added to the Regulation.

Regarding 704.1/704.1-R, it was noted that the Board should proceed with caution should it decide to consider actually proceeding with a disposal. It was also discussed that flexibility should be maintained with regard to how the Board wishes to use proceeds of a disposal (within Ministry and Board policy).

Discussion amongst committee members and stakeholders ensued and stakeholders were asked to share their thoughts regarding the proposed consultation minimum time period of two months. Stakeholders noted that it was important to balance the need for an appropriate amount of consultation time with not wanting to prolong stress and anxiety in schools that are being considered for closure. It was noted that it would only be in highly unusual circumstances that consultation would be limited to two months. Ultimately, all present agreed that it would be wise to continue with the proposed minimum two month consultation period in the policy.

Following further discussion and questions, the Committee Chair read the two draft Notices of Motion to be brought forward to the Board on November 13, 2019 and that for the minutes, grammatical changes, suggestions to Legal Counsel as well as consultation length be noted as follows: grammatical changes/organizational suggestions and final edits will be made where appropriate; the minimum length of the consultation period will be two months; more specific detail under Section 5 be added regarding provision of information to and consultation with, employees.

ACTION: It was **AGREED** that a **NOTICE OF MOTION** would be provided at the November 13, 2019 public meeting of the Board of Education (Richmond) advising that a **RECOMMENDATION** to approve the revised final proposed revisions to Policy 704 & 704-R: *School Closure and/or Consolidation* be brought to the December 13th, 2019 Public meeting of the Board.

ACTION: It was **AGREED** that a **NOTICE OF MOTION** would be provided at the November 13, 2019 public meeting of the Board of Education (Richmond) advising that a **RECOMMENDATION** to approve the revised final proposed revisions to Policy 704.1 & 704.1-R: *Disposal of School Board Land or Improvements* be brought to the December 13th, 2019 Public meeting of the Board.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Nixon
Sandra Nixon, Chairperson
Policy Committee